

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 15-19 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowance of claims 15-19.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,678,068 to Richter et al. (herein "Richter") in view of U.S. Patent 5,805,166 to Hall, Jr. et al. (herein "Hall").¹ That rejection is traversed by the present response, as discussed next.

Applicants respectfully submit the claims as written positively recite features neither taught nor suggested by the applied art.

Specifically independent claim 1 recites with respect to the display means:

... the display means comprising a plurality of different individual distinct display components aligned in a successive progression from image data reception to data printing to successively indicate the different processes from image data reception to data printing, and that are displayed simultaneously on a display portion.

Independent claim 14 recites similar features.

The outstanding rejection recognizes deficiencies in Richter, specifically stating:

Richter does not disclose expressly the display means comprising a plurality of different individual distinct display components aligned in a successive progression from image data reception to data printing to successively indicate the different processes and wherein the display is part of a printing apparatus.²

To overcome the recognized deficiencies in Richter the outstanding rejection now cites Hall, specifically stating:

Hall discloses the display means comprising a plurality of different individual distinct display components aligned in a successive progression from image data reception to data printing to successively indicate the processes (see Figs. 2A-

¹ The statement for the rejection on the top of page 3 only indicates a rejection based on Richter in view of Hall. However, the body of the rejection also cites Canon's imageRunner 500 Series User's Guide (herein the "Canon" reference). It is unclear if the Canon reference forms part of the rejection. Clarification is requested.

² Office Action of January 25, 2007, page 4, first paragraph (original emphasis).

2H, column 2 lines 26-52, column 2 line 66 – column 3, line 8, column 4 lines 21-26, column 4 line 8 – column 5 line 29, column 5 line 41 – column 6 line 3, and column 6 line 64 – column 7 line 3.

...

Richter & Hall are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, displaying the status of peripheral devices.³

Applicants traverse the basis for the outstanding rejection as the disclosures in Hall are not applicable to the disclosures in Richter and do not in fact cure the recognized deficiencies in Richter.

The applicant of the present invention recognized that in the conventional art of printing apparatus the status of print jobs has not always been displayed clearly enough so that a user can be comfortable in determining, when a printing operation is being delayed, whether the printing apparatus is merely taking a long time or a problem has occurred and printing has been stopped.⁴ Thus, one object of the present invention is to provide a printing apparatus with enhanced displays so that a user can have a better understanding of the progress of printing jobs. One manner in which the present invention achieves such an objective is to include plural different display components successively indicating different processes the image data is undergoing at any given moment, and that can be simultaneously displayed on a display portion. As shown for example in Figure 2 in the present specification the various display components 31-39 provide displays such as a spooling indicator 31, a spool data display 36, a drawing indicator 33, a drawing page data display 34, a saved job data display 35, a printed page data display 36, a printing indicator 37, a supply/exit tray data indicator 38, and a message display 39, all as non-limiting examples of different types of display components of the different processes the image data is undergoing at any moment,

³ Office Action of January 25, 2007, page 4, second and fourth paragraphs (original emphasis).

⁴ See for example the present specification at page 3, lines 3-13.

and that can be simultaneously displayed.⁵ Several of the dependent claims recite such individual display components.

The outstanding rejection is misconstruing Hall as Hall does not disclose or suggest any display of a progression of processes from an image data reception to a data printing. As clearly shown in the relied upon Figures 2A-2H Hall discloses different connections to a computer, but Hall does not disclose or suggest any operation from an image data reception to a data printing.

In fact applicants traverse the position that Richter and Hall are from the same field of endeavor of displaying the status of peripheral devices.

Richter is directed to a client print server link that displays statuses applicable to printers. Hall is not directed to any similar device. The only similarity between Richter and Hall is that they both include displays, but what is being displayed is not at all related in Richter and Hall. Clearly those references are not from the same field of endeavor.

Moreover, Hall simply does not even teach or suggest displaying a successive progression of any operation. Hall clearly indicates status segments 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, and 45 can be part of a status window 30, but Hall indicates those segments provide a display indicating if the corresponding element is ready or available or if an error has occurred therein or if immediate attention is required.⁶ Hall does not disclose or suggest that those segments provide display components aligned in a successive progression, and clearly they are not aligned in successive progression from image data reception to data printing, to successively indicate different processes, and clearly they do not indicate the successive processes from image data reception to data printing. Instead Hall discloses segments 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, and 45 provided for status indicators.

⁵ See the present Specification at page 14, lines 3-9.

⁶ See the clear disclosure in Hall at column 5, lines 21-29 and column 5, lines 42-44.

If the teachings in Hall were combined with the teachings in Richter that would at most result in the device of Richter being modified to include different status indicators. Such a combination of teachings still would not meet the claim limitations. That is, such a combination of teachings still would not disclose or suggest:

...the display means comprising a plurality of different individual distinct display components aligned in a successive progression from image data reception to data printing to successively indicate the different processes from image data reception to data printing, and that are displayed simultaneously on a display portion.

Further, the Canon reference merely discloses being able to list different jobs and their statuses. The Canon reference is not at all directed to the claimed features, and does not add anything to the teachings of Richter and Hall with respect to the claimed features.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit independent claims 1 and 14, and claims 2-13 dependent therefrom, clearly distinguish over Richter in view of Hall, and further in view of the Canon reference. Thereby, each of the pending claims is believed to be allowable.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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